

Python Interview – Ron Stephens of Python 411

The Python Papers (TPP) talks to Ron Stephens of *Python 411*⁸.

TPP: Who is Ron Stephens?

Ron> *I am a middle aged man living in Connecticut, USA, a father of four children and an electronics industry executive who discovered Python while attending a Linux Users Group with my son about 6 years ago.*

TPP: What motivated you to start the Awaretek site?

Ron> *I actually started the AwareTek site about 10 years ago as a means of self-expression. The Python orientation of the site was inspired when, not long after I discovered Python, I read a book about the wonderful open source community in which Guido van Rossum was quoted talking about "Computer Programming for Everybody". I felt an overwhelming desire to participate.*

TPP: Have you made many new contacts since starting to publish information?

Ron> *Yes, I get many emails from Pythonistas from all over the world, as well as talking to the folks whom I interview for the Python411 podcast series.*

TPP: What do you think is the current biggest problem with Python (in a broad sense)?

Ron> *You know, I don't see any problems, I'm a glass-half-full kind of guy. I can hardly believe what a beautiful language and powerful set of tools has been created by a group of dedicated programmers and given freely to all of us to use, and all of this is out of the goodness of people's hearts. It doesn't get much better than this.*

TPP: What is best best feature of Python (again in a broad sense)?

Ron> *Ease of learning and ease of use are the killer features of Python.*

TPP: As a contributor to the Python community, do you feel well connected to other Python developers?

Ron> *I attended PyCon last year for the first time, and I plan on being in Dallas in late February to do so again, and that is my first real face to face exposure to other Pythonistas. I highly recommend PyCon to anyone who has a chance to go. I do not have a local user's group close enough to attend, so other than PyCon, I do miss talking with real live Pythonistas; but I am thankful for the online virtual world, without which the Python and larger open source communities as we know them could not exist.*

TPP: What are some of the most exciting Python projects that you know about?

Ron> *My favorite Python projects include 'Chandler', a sort of cross platform uber-PIM; 'PythonCard', an incredibly easy to use GUI creator; and 'Firedrop', a weblog and content management system for Python hackers.*

Python Learning Foundation

1. An organisation promoting Python information
2. Host of the popular "Python 411" podcast series

Text 1: Source: www.awaretek.com

⁸ <http://www.awaretek.com/>